

TWO GOALS IN SIX MINUTE SPELL DENT WANDERERS' DEFENCE

St. Albans City 2, Wycombe Wanderers 0

ST. ALBANS CITY, fresh from their inspiring F.A. Cup triumph at Hitchin, carried on in the same vein on Tuesday evening, when they swiftly disposed of Wycombe Wanderers with two goals inside six minutes half-way through the first period.

Swirling fog shrouded the pitch for the duration of the game but this did not upset St. Albans' rhythm as they moved intelligently off the ball into open spaces and inter-changing positions frequently.

Although Wanderers' hopes of reducing Enfield's lead at the top were dented their performance contained more spirit and finesse than anything they produced at Ilford.

Nevertheless, St. Albans always gave the impression of being well in control breaking speedily from defence to attack. Wycombe made one positional change from the side which triumphed at Ilford, Julian Lailey reverting to his normal defensive duties with Dave Thomas moving up into the front line.

RAIDING

St. Albans' fast raiding forwards were finding an easy passage through the Wanderers' rearguard and Maskell had to be on the alert several times in the opening stages as his defence crumbled before him.

It might have been a different story had Merrick not missed a glorious opportunity in the fourth minute. Lailey split the home defence with an astute through-ball and Merrick galloping forward fired miserably wide from five yards.

Following this early scare St. Albans, clad in their new all-golden strip, increased their workrate and kept Wycombe quiet. Maskell was now in nearly constant action pulling off splendid saves from Butterfield and Broomfield.

It came as no surprise when St. Albans finally broke through. Childs' corner was only half-cleared to Lawrence, who shooting on the turn clipped a half-volley against the bar, and Butterfield rushed in to bundle the ball over the line in the 37th minute.

Heartened by this success St. Albans advanced eagerly hunting for further reward. In the 43rd minute they benefited from a howling Wanderers' defensive error.

Fowler's long goal kick was badly misjudged in the air by Rundle, who was caught hopelessly out of position. Faulkner trying to cover hesitated for a fatal split-second and was robbed by Butterfield, who waltzed round Maskell before slipping his shot into an empty net.

NO TIME

Although St. Albans were not to score again, they still maintained the pressure, allowing Wanderers precious little time to mount counter-attacks.

Just two minutes from the end Julian Lailey was injured in a heavy tackle with Neville and limped off to be replaced by substitute Lane.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; L. Temel, C. Gale; V. Faulkner, I. Rundle, J. Lailey; L. Worley, B. Baker, V. Busby, D. Thomas, L. Merrick. Sub.: K. Lane.